very high carry over stock of about 18.50 lakh bales from the previous year.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to arrest the declining trend in prices of raw jute to protect the interest of jute cultivators. These are as under:—

(i) strengthening of financial base of JCI by the Government for conducting large scale price support operation by JCI;

(ii) Advance arrangement was made by the Government for providing an amount of Rs. 10 crore to the JCI for undertaking price support operation;

(iii) Government also gave a guarantee of Rs. 33 crore for drawal of bank credit of Rs. 99 crore against hypothecation of stocks;

(iv) in addition to Rs. 10 crore provided by the Government earlier, a further amount of Rs. 20 crore was made available to the JCI in two phases and through drawings from the bankers out of its cash credit accounts.

Due to adequate fund support by the Government, JCI could procure a total quantity of 9.85 lakh bales under Price Support Operations.

Decline in Prices of Potatoes

894. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the prices of potatoes in West Bengal causing serious losses to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to help the farmers to get remunerative price for their product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The wholesale price of Deshi Jyoti variety of Potato in Calcutta in May, 1998 was Rs. 750 per qtl. as against Rs. 125 per qtl. during the corresponding period last year.

(c) Does not arise.

दालों का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य

895. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार दालों का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित करने हेतु विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) से (ग) सरकार प्रत्येक मौसम में मुख्य कृषि जिन्सों का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित करती है और दालों के संबंध में इनमें अरहर, मूंग, उड़द तथा चना शामिल हैं। हाल के वर्षों में अरहर, मूंग, उड़द और चने के लिए निर्धारित न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों को दर्शाने वाला विवरण संलग्न है। **(नीचे देखिए)**

विवरण

अधिप्राप्ति/न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य
(फसल वर्ष के अनुसार)

(यथा 13.4.1998 को)

जिन्स	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1996-97	1997-98	
अरहर	480	545	640	700	760	800	840	900
मूंग	480	545	640	700	760	800	840	900
उड़द	480	545	640	700	760	800	840	900
चना	450	500	640	640	670	700	740	815